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The first of many to come

Lakeland pulmonologist receives first dose of vaccine in Berrien County

By ALEXANDRA NEWMAN
HP Staff Writer

ST. JOSEPH — On Wednesday evening a Spectrum Health Lakeland pulmonologist became the first person in Berrien County to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, hospital officials said Thursday morning.

Dr. Katie Fitton treats ailments of the lungs and respiratory system, which is critical for the fight against the coronavirus pandemic.

"I was there last night, and there was excitement and some tears," Dr. Loren Hamel, president of Spectrum Health Lakeland, said on Thursday. "(Fitton) just happened to get there first, and she took it with a smile on her face."

Employees were chosen to receive the vaccine based on a system that determines how essential the employee is to hospital or clinic operations. After those employees were selected, they were scheduled to get it based on open time slots and their personal schedule, according to Lakeland officials.

Health care workers are in the first phase of those identified to get vaccinated. These employees are receiving the Pfizer vaccine, as the hospital is capable of storing it at very cold temperatures.

The hospital system will continue to vaccinate its employees over the next few weeks. Lakeland expects to receive weekly shipments of the vaccine, as recipients complete the first and second doses.

5 more COVID deaths

Berrien County is now averaging about 100 new COVID-19 cases a day, compared to about 140 new cases a day two weeks ago, Nicki Britten, health officer for the Berrien County Health Department (BCHD), said Thursday.

"This is not the time to let our guard down, but there might be some encouragement there," she said.

See **VACCINE**, page A10

Photo provided / Spectrum Health Lakeland

Dr. Katie Fitton, a pulmonologist, receives the first COVID-19 vaccine at Spectrum Health Lakeland on Wednesday.

Photos by Don Campbell / HP staff

Holiday lights brighten the night at a home along Fairplain Avenue near Jakway Avenue in Benton Harbor.

Lights of the season

Where to see Christmas lights in the Twin Cities area

By HP STAFF

Any way you look at it, 2020 has been a bleak year. So The Herald-Palladium asked readers to submit locations where home Christmas lights are shining bright, with the idea that taking a drive to see some festive light displays could perhaps add a little holiday cheer.

The list is not comprehensive, by any means. But if you need a pick-me-up, check out displays near you:

St. Joseph

Church Street between Jones Street and Harrison Ave.

Forrest Avenue between Winchester Ave. and Howard Ave.

Granada Avenue between Lakeview Ave. and S. State St.

Jones Street between State St. and Main St.

Lakeview Avenue near Highland Ave. and Veronica Ave.

Lane Drive between Mt. Curve Ave. and Thayer Drive.

Lions Park Drive between 2nd St. and 3rd St.

Marion Avenue between Langley Ave. and Sunset Drive

Pioneer Road between North St. and Wallace Ave.

Pixley Avenue between Michigan Ave. and Wisconsin Ave.

Price Street between State St. and Main St.

State Street between Price St. and James St.

Winchester Avenue between S. State St. and Niles Ave.

Wisconsin Avenue between Morton Ave. and Pixley Ave.

Estates Drive off Washington Ave.

Benton Harbor

Commonwealth Road near Hoover Ave.

Cygnet Lake Drive between Tumpteter Bay and Old State Highway 139.

Fairplain Avenue near Jakway.

Fairplain Avenue near W. Napier Ave. and Hoover Ave.

Fairplain Avenue near Spencer Ave.

Jamesway near Russel Road.

Marral Drive between Jakway and Fairview Drive.

Morton Avenue near Morton Ave. and Orchard Ave.

A dusting of snow adds to the holiday atmosphere of a home along Washington Avenue near John Beers Road in Stevensville.

A Polar Air inflatable helicopter is featured at a St. Joseph display along Church Street between Jones Street and Harrison Avenue.

Roslin Road near Millburg and Territorial Road.

Stevensville

Bay Pointe Drive off Eagle Point Drive.

Heights Drive between Valley Lane and McLin Road.

John Beers Road near Washington.

Manor Drive near Tanbark Trail and Hillview Lane.

Mead Court near Clemons Ave.

Marion Avenue near Kim St.

Nelson Road near Washington.

Pearl Street near Wayne St.

Vinewood Road near North Trail Lane.

Shrinking workforce is alarming trend

Lower unemployment rate skewed by workers leaving labor market

By TONY WITTKOWSKI
HP Staff Writer

BENTON HARBOR — The unemployment rate is down in Southwest Michigan, but Kinexus Group officials say everything is not as it seems.

At a roundtable discussion with media outlets Thursday, Kinexus representatives said they've noticed a new trend that is concerning – people are leaving the labor market.

The unemployment rate for October in Berrien County fell to 4.6 percent, compared to 7.7. percent in September. Cass and Van Buren counties posted 4.4 percent and 4 percent jobless rates, respectively, which were also substantial declines compared to September.

Al Pscholka, vice president of public relations and government affairs for Kinexus, said these decreasing unemployment rates are misleading.

"You might interpret that as great, but it does not take into account the people who have left the labor market. The actual unemployment rate is closer to 7 percent and it might be over that," Pscholka said. "That's the number we keep an eye on. The labor participation rate is important."

The unemployment rate for Berrien, Cass and Van Buren counties combined for October was

See **WORKFORCE**, page A10

Michigan lawmakers reinstate freeze on water shutoffs

By DAVID EGGERT
Associated Press

LANSING — Michigan lawmakers voted Thursday to prohibit water shutoffs across the state through March, reinstating a pandemic-related moratorium that was upended by a court ruling.

The bill, which received final approval 96-9 in the Republican-led House, will be signed by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

The Democrat had barred water shutoffs in an order last spring. But the state Supreme Court in October declared unconstitutional a law that was the basis for the governor's sweeping orders to curb the virus and provide relief such as a freeze on shutoffs.

"Water is a human right and, especially amid the COVID-19 pandemic, is essential to hydration, hygiene and public health," said the bill sponsor, Democratic Sen. Stephanie Chang of Detroit. "It is my hope that this bill, combined with recent efforts by the city of Detroit, will give residents some peace of mind as we head into the new year and one less thing to worry about during this difficult time."

Detroit last week announced an extension of shutoff protections through 2022.

The House remained in session Thursday night as negotiations continued with the Whitmer administration over a proposed $100 million relief plan to help small businesses and jobless workers. The GOP-controlled Senate adjourned until Friday.

The Newspaper for Southwest Michigan

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Tomorrow's Weather

High 41 Low 33

6 50645 49085 0

Snags on COVID-19 relief may force weekend sessions

By ANDREW TAYLOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It's a hurry up and wait moment on Capitol Hill as congressional negotiators on a must-pass, almost $1 trillion COVID-19 economic relief package struggled through a handful of remaining snags on Thursday. The holdups mean a weekend session now appears virtually certain, and a top lawmaker warned that a government shutdown this weekend can't be ruled out.

All sides appeared hopeful that the wrangling wouldn't derail the legislation. The central elements of a hard-fought compromise appeared in place: more than $300 billion in aid to businesses; a $300-per-week bonus federal jobless benefit and renewal of soon-to-expire state benefits; $600 direct payments to individuals; vaccine distribution funds and money for renters, schools, the Postal Service and people needing food aid.

Negotiators managed to keep their frustrations in check, at least publicly, even as the chances for announcing a deal Thursday seemed to slip away.

But a temporary funding bill runs out Friday at midnight and the Senate's No. 2 Republican, Sen. John Thune, said if there isn't a deal by then, some Republicans might block a temporary funding bill – causing a low-impact partial weekend shutdown – as a means to keep the pressure on.

Lawmakers were told to expect to be in session and voting this weekend.

"We must not slide into treating these talks like routine negotiations to be conducted at Congress' routine pace," Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said. "The Senate is not going anywhere until we have COVID relief out the door."

The hangups involve an effort by GOP conservatives to curb emergency lending programs by the Treasury Department and Federal Reserve, a Democratic demand to eliminate local government matching requirements for COVID-related disaster grants, and myriad smaller disagreements over non-pandemic add-ons, lawmakers and aides said.

The delays aren't unusual for legislation of this size and importance, but lawmakers are eager to leave Washington for the holidays and are getting antsy.

The pending bill is the first significant legislative response to the pandemic since the landmark CARES Act passed virtually unanimously in March, delivering $1.8 trillion in aid and more generous $600 per week bonus jobless benefits and $1,200 direct payments to individuals.

The CARES legislation passed at a moment of great uncertainty and unprecedented shutdowns in a failed attempt to stymie the coronavirus, but after that many Republicans focused more on loosening social and economic restrictions as the key to recovery instead of more taxpayer-funded aid.

LOTTERIES

Thursday drawings

Michigan
Poker Lotto
7C-3D-6D-6S-9S
Midday Daily 3
3-8-0
Midday Daily 4
7-1-5-4
Daily 3
6-7-4
Daily 4
1-1-4-7
Fantasy 5
02-06-11-15-18
Keno
01-03-05-06-08-09-31-34-35-37-38-48-52-55-59-60-62-66-67-71-73-75
Mega Millions jackpot
$310 million
Powerball jackpot
$304 million

Wednesday drawings

Michigan
Powerball
04-23-37-61-67, Powerball: 7, Power Play: 2
Indiana
Cash 5
04-08-22-23-34
Cash4Life
01-04-08-10-37, Cash Ball: 2
Lotto Plus
18-27-30-31-42-45
Quick Draw Midday
09-11-12-14-17-21-23-30-31-33-45-50-55-65-66-67-68-69-70-74, BE: 55
Daily Three-Midday
2-6-2, SB: 8
Daily Three-Evening
2-2-8, SB: 2
Daily Four-Midday
1-5-4-4, SB: 8
Daily Four-Evening
5-5-2-9, SB: 2
Quick Draw Evening
08-16-19-27-30-34-38-41-53-55-56-57-62-63-64-65-70-76-77-79, BE: 65
Hoosier Lotto
15-18-25-27-28-41
Illinois
LuckyDay Lotto Midday
03-04-10-26-44
Pick Three-Midday
9-7-2, Fireball: 4
Pick Three-Evening
7-4-6, Fireball: 1
Pick Four-Midday
5-9-6-8, Fireball: 6
Pick Four-Evening
4-6-2-9, Fireball: 3
Lucky Day Lotto
05-06-15-29-33

– The Associated Press

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Hack against U.S. is 'grave threat,' cybersecurity agency says

By BEN FOX
Associated Press

Patrick Semansky / AP file

The U.S. Treasury Department building viewed from the Washington Monument on Sept. 18, 2019, in Washington. Hackers got into computers at the U.S. Treasury Department and possibly other federal agencies, touching off a government response involving the National Security Council.

WASHINGTON — Federal authorities expressed increased alarm Thursday about a long-undetected intrusion into U.S. and other computer systems around the globe that officials suspect was carried out by Russian hackers. The nation's cybersecurity agency warned of a "grave" risk to government and private networks.

The hack compromised federal agencies and "critical infrastructure" in a sophisticated attack that was hard to detect and will be difficult to undo, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency said in an unusual warning message. The Department of Energy acknowledged it was among those that had been hacked.

The attack, if authorities can prove it was carried out by Russia as experts believe, creates a fresh foreign policy problem for President Donald Trump in his final days in office.

Trump, whose administration has been criticized for eliminating a White House cybersecurity adviser and downplaying Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election, has made no public statements about the breach.

President-elect Joe Biden, who will inherit the potentially difficult U.S.-Russia relationship, spoke up forcefully about the hack, declaring that he and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris "will make dealing with this breach a top priority from the moment we take office."

"We need to disrupt and deter our adversaries from undertaking significant cyberattacks in the first place," he said. "We will do that by, among other things, imposing substantial costs on those responsible for such malicious attacks, including in coordination with our allies and partners."

"There's a lot we don't yet know, but what we do know is a matter of great concern," he said. He thanked administration "public servants" who he said were "working around-the-clock to respond to this attack."

CISA officials did not respond to questions and so it was unclear what the agency meant by a "grave threat" or by "critical infrastructure" possibly targeted in the attack that the agency previously said appeared to have begun last March. Homeland Security, the agency's parent department, defines such infrastructure as any "vital" assets to the U.S. or its economy, a broad category that could include power plants and financial institutions.

The agency previously said the perpetrators had used network management software from Texas-based SolarWinds to infiltrate computer networks. Its new alert said the attackers may have used other methods, as well.

Over the weekend, amid reports that the Treasury and Commerce departments were breached, CISA directed all civilian agencies of the federal government to remove SolarWinds from their servers. The cybersecurity agencies of Britain and Ireland issued similar alerts.

A U.S. official previously told The Associated Press that Russia-based hackers were suspected, but neither CISA nor the FBI has publicly said who is believed to be responsible. Asked whether Russia was behind the attack, the official said: "We believe so. We haven't said that publicly yet because it isn't 100 percent confirmed."

Another U.S. official, speaking Thursday on condition of anonymity to discuss a matter that is under investigation, said the hack was severe and extremely damaging although the administration was not yet ready to publicly blame anyone for it.

"This is looking like it's the worst hacking case in the history of America," the official said. "They got into everything."

At the Department of Energy, the initial investigation revealed that malware injected into its networks via a SolarWinds update has been found only on its business networks and has not affected national security operations, including the agency that manages the nation's nuclear weapons stockpile, according to its statement. It said vulnerable software was disconnected from the DOE network to reduce any risk.

The intentions of the perpetrators appear to be espionage and gathering information rather than destruction, according to security experts and former government officials. If so, they are now remarkably well situated.

Thomas Bossert, a former Trump Homeland Security adviser, said in an opinion article in The New York Times that the U.S. should now act as if the Russian government had gained control of the networks it has penetrated. "The actual and perceived control of so many important networks could easily be used to undermine public and consumer trust in data, written communications and services," he wrote.

States grapple with next steps on evictions as crisis grows

By SARA CLINE
Associated Press/
Report for America

CORVALLIS, Ore. — Ryan Bowser looked somber as he sat in his cramped Oregon apartment, worried whether he, his pregnant girlfriend and her 10-year-old daughter would have a roof over their heads in the new year. It may well depend on state lawmakers.

The family is three months behind on the $1,165 in rent they pay for their two-bedroom unit in the college town of Corvallis. Bowser, a custodian at Oregon State University, took eight weeks off because he was sick and couldn't afford child care.

They're among thousands hoping Oregon extends an eviction moratorium until July 1 in a special legislative session next week. The proposal also would create a $200 million fund mainly to compensate landlords. If passed, it would go further than a one-month extension of a federal eviction moratorium expected in a coronavirus relief package nearing consensus in Congress.

"We are forced to make decisions between which bills to pay – rent, car or groceries," said Bowser, adding that they may have to sleep in their car, stay on friends' couches or move to another state to crash with distant relatives. "We don't know if we will have a home next year."

The plight of Bowser and other renters on the edge foreshadows a national crisis that's expected to grow next year, with states and cities that granted renters a reprieve amid the coronavirus-battered economy now wrestling with what comes next. While states like Oregon and California are trying to pass much longer moratoriums, some don't have more protections in the works.

"This has the potential of being the biggest housing crisis of our lifetime," said David Dworkin, president and CEO of the National Housing Conference, a nonprofit dedicated to affordable housing for all Americans.

About one-third of U.S. households say they're behind on rent or mortgage payments and likely to face eviction or foreclosure in the next two months, according to data collected by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Eyes are on congressional leaders who are closing in on a massive COVID-19 relief package, including an extension of the federal eviction moratorium until February and $25 billion in rental assistance as well as a new round of stimulus checks, bonus unemployment benefits and many other efforts to deliver aid.

Eviction moratoriums instituted by 44 states beginning in March have mostly expired. In response, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued the federal moratorium in September that broadly prevents evictions through the end of 2020. The nationwide directive was seen as the best hope to prevent more than 23 million renters from being displaced.

Now, some states want to extend eviction bans further than the federal government. Lawmakers in heavily Democratic California are proposing their moratorium last until 2022, as long as renters pay at least 25 percent of their rent and attest to financial hardship.

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Grade	No. of Openings	Grade	No. of Openings
Young 5s	4		
Kindergarten	1	Discovery Academy	
1st Grade	0	(Alternative Education)	
2nd Grade	0	9th	1
3rd Grade	1	10th	1
4th Grade	1	11th	1
5th Grade	1	12th	1
6th Grade	0		
7th Grade	0	Virtual Academy	
8th Grade	0	Kindergarten	0
9th Grade	1	Grades 1-5	0 seats per grade level
10th Grade	1		
11th Grade	0	Grades 6-12	1 seats per grade level
12th Grade	0		

Transportation is the responsibility of the parent. Information and the application are available on our website at **www.homeoftheshamrocks.org** or by calling the Superintendent's office at (269) 471-2891.

The application process will end January 15, 2021.

hp LOCAL & STATE

BERRIEN COUNTY

Board contacts nonprofits about CARES Act

Deadline looms to decide how to spend grant money

By JULIE SWIDWA
HP Staff Writer

ST. JOSEPH — As Berrien County officials scramble to allocate federal CARES Act money by the end of the year, the county Community Development Department is reaching out to nonprofit organizations that would be eligible.

Community Development Director Dan Fette told the Berrien County Board on Thursday that he has reached out to United Way and the Area Agency on Aging, and will approach other organizations that serve low- to moderate-income people throughout Berrien County.

The county received $377,362 through the Community Development Block Grant program. The money can be used for COVID-19 related expenses that have occurred by Dec. 31, or to pay for goods or services that have been received by that date. Then, the county has until the end of February to submit the bills to the federal government.

Fette said as he receives proposals from organizations, he'll put together a list of recommendations to bring to the county board for approval at a meeting Dec. 30, the final meeting of the year.

He said there are some challenges associated with federal rules about how the money can be spent.

"Some of your internal costs weren't eligible because they didn't benefit low- to moderate-income people," he said.

However, there are a number of community partners that might have costs that are eligible. For example, the Area Agency on Aging received money directly for in-home care for recovering COVID-19 patients, but the money ran out in October.

"This program is tailor-made for what our grant is intended to pay for," Fette said. "It has to be countywide, the organization has to be a current vendor of ours, and the activity has to be related to emergency response.

He said he is reaching out first to nonprofit organizations that participate with the county's Emergency Operations Center.

"We know there are multiple nonprofits in our area, and it would be wonderful if we could cover all their costs, but we are trying to be fair and consistent and do as much as possible," Fette said. "I think we're going to be inundated with requests, and we're pulling from our EOC partners first.

In other business Thursday, the board approved several end-of-the-year housekeeping resolutions such as annual contracts for various services at the courthouse and jail.

Contact: jswidwa@TheHP.com, 932-0359, Twitter @HPSwidwa

MAKING HEADWAY ON PIPESTONE

Don Campbell / HP staff

Work continues Thursday afternoon on new curbs and gutters, which will be followed by concrete sidewalks, as part of the Pipestone Street Corridor Reconstruction project in downtown Benton Harbor. The approximately $5.7 million project, by the Kalin Construction Company and Abonmarche Consultants, is currently on schedule to be completed by November 2021.

Van Buren road commission plans in case COVID hits

By HP STAFF

LAWRENCE — If a COVID-19 outbreak should occur among Van Buren County Road Commission employees, the agency has come up with a plan to make sure streets are plowed this winter.

The road commission is joining other road agencies in West Michigan in developing a response plan to address the possibility of staffing shortages related to the pandemic.

The response plan will allow road commission crews to cross jurisdictional boundaries to assist in clearing roads when storms occur, according to a news release from Van Buren County Road Commission. Several of the county road commissions include Allegan, Barry and Ottawa.

"The safety of our traveling public, first responders, and school children is at the forefront of our minds, and as such we will prioritize higher volume, primary road systems that are most frequently used," Dan Bishop, road commission managing director said. "This may create a delay in plowing the lower volume, local and residential road systems and you may see a plow truck from a neighboring Road Commission or the community plowing your road. Should the response plan be implemented here in Van Buren County or in one of our neighboring counties, we will aim for a smooth transition and operation."

To minimize the risk of a COVID-19 outbreak, the road commission has set up several procedures, including staggered start times, separated garages and daily sanitization of workspaces and equipment.

Generosity on display in South Haven

Requests for groceries from We Care's food pantry have tripled in 2020

By BECKY KARK
For The Herald-Palladium

The economic fallout from the coronavirus pandemic can be clearly seen at food pantries across the nation, including We Care INC's food pantry at First Congregational Church in South Haven.

In an average year the pantry provides food for approximately 35 families per week. This year though is much different.

"We've probably tripled that number this year," said food pantry volunteer Don Kitchin. "Now we're over 100 a week."

The pantry is open from 10 a.m.-noon, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

In the past people could just walk inside the pantry, but now they have to wait in their cars for food pantry volunteers to come outside and pack the food in car trunks or hatchbacks. It's not unusual for cars to start lining up before the pantry even opens.

Such was the case on Wednesday.

Becky Kark / For The Herald-Palladium

Vehicles are shown earlier this month beginning to line up to receive groceries from We Care INC's food pantry in South Haven. Pantry volunteers say requests for groceries have tripled over last year.

"On Wednesdays, we'd normally serve 10 families. Today we'll most likely serve around 40," Kitchin said.

More families in need of groceries has put a strain on the food pantry, but individuals and groups in the community have stepped up over the past year to help donate food or provide monetary support.

"People in this community are very generous," Kitchin said, even with the added economic strain.

"People want to do something, they want to help," Kitchin said.

Over the past month, the South Haven Garden Club donated $1,300 to the food pantry, while the South Haven Elks Lodge contributed $3,000. Earlier in the year the South Haven Rotary Club donated several thousand dollars to the pantry. South Haven area stores, such as Aldi, also provide fresh food products for the pantry.

We Care also operates a food pantry in Bangor. People and organizations in that community have also stepped up with either food or monetary donations. Earlier this week, the Green Door dispensary donated $750 to the food pantry.

"We have always given back to the community," Green Door owner Mark Smith said. "It's what we pride ourselves on, and people need help now, more than ever."

IN BRIEF

Ex-prosecutor charged with misconduct in assault case

MOUNT PLEASANT (AP) — A former Michigan prosecutor was charged Thursday with misconduct in office, more than a year after he was forced to resign when authorities learned he had an intimate relationship with a woman while handling her allegations of sexual assault.

Brian Kolodziej, who was an assistant attorney general, was charged by Kent County Prosecutor Chris Becker, who was appointed to investigate the matter.

Becker declined to say whether the misconduct charges were directly related to Kolodziej's relationship with the woman or his other work on the case.

"Ethically we cannot, and will not, delve into the specific facts or evidence that led to these charges," Becker said.

A message seeking comment was not immediately returned by Kolodziej's attorney.

Police put down the razors for charity

By HP STAFF

ST. JOSEPH — Police officers in Berrien County ditched their razors for a good cause in November and December.

The bearded cops have taken part in the national "No Shave" November and December.

Police officers, normally clean-shaven, paid $50 each month, with the money going to charity.

Berrien County Sheriff Paul Bailey said money raised by members of his office during November is going to the Michigan Law Enforcement Polar Plunge for Special Olympics Michigan, while money raised this month is going to The Cure Starts Now in support of pediatric cancer research.

The sheriff's office raised more than $5,000, including $2,660 for Special Olympics Michigan and $2,400 for pediatric cancer research, Bailey said.

"This is a great way to support two outstanding charities while allowing our deputies to lose their razors for a couple of months," the sheriff said.

He said his department is organizing a team to participate in the Michigan Law Enforcement Polar Plunge, which this year will be held virtually.

6 men indicted in alleged plot to kidnap Michigan governor

By JOHN FLESHER
Associated Press

TRAVERSE CITY — A federal grand jury has charged six men with conspiring to kidnap Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer in what investigators say was a plot by anti-government extremists who were angry over her coronavirus policies.

The indictment released Thursday by U.S. Attorney Andrew Birge levied the conspiracy charge against Adam Dean Fox, Barry Gordon Croft Jr., Ty Gerard Garbin, Kaleb James Franks, Daniel Joseph Harris and Brandon Michael-Ray Caserta. They are all from Michigan except for Croft, who lives in Delaware.

The charge carries a maximum penalty of life in prison, Birge said in a statement.

The six were arrested in early October following an FBI investigation into an alleged plot to kidnap the Democratic governor at her vacation home in northern Michigan.

Defense attorneys have said their clients were "big talkers" who didn't intend to follow through on the alleged plan.

The indictment repeats allegations made during an October hearing, where agent Richard Trask testified that the men were involved with paramilitary groups.

Fox and Croft attended a June meeting in Dublin, Ohio, at which the possible kidnapping of governors and other actions were discussed, the indictment states. During the hearing, Trask said Virginia's Democratic governor, Ralph Northam, was among those mentioned as potential targets.

BEETLE BAILEY

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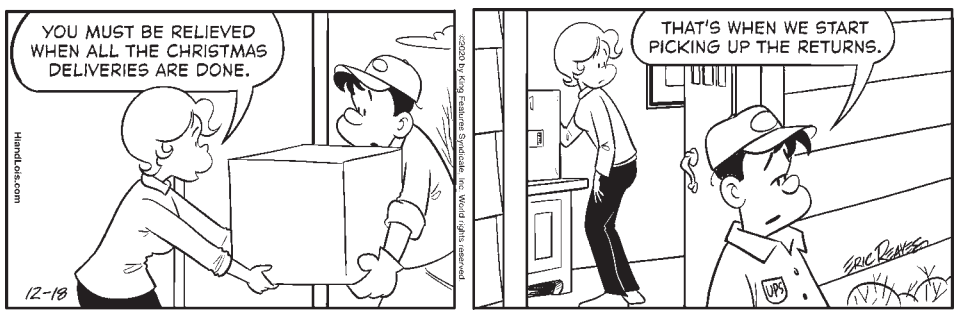
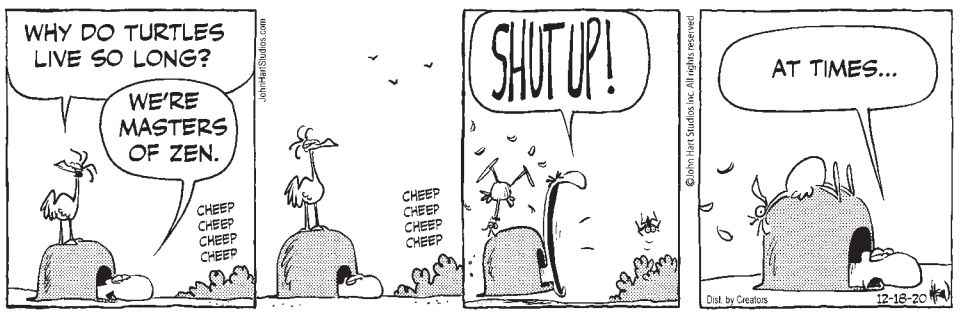
12-16

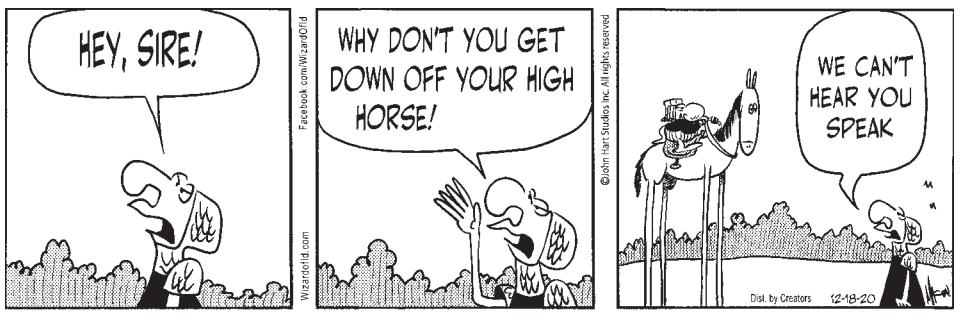
HI & LOIS


YOU MUST BE RELIEVED WHEN ALL THE CHRISTMAS DELIVERIES ARE DONE.
THAT'S WHEN WE START PICKING UP THE RETURNS.
12-18
©2020 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved
HiandLois.com
ERIC REASER

BC



WIZARD OF ID



DILBERT

YOUR WORK HAS BEEN EXCEPTIONAL, BUT PEOPLE ARE COMPLAIN— ING ABOUT YOUR ATTITUDE.
AREN'T THE PEOPLE WHO ARE DOING THE COMPLAINING USUALLY THE ONES WITH BAD ATTITUDES?
THEY THINK YOU DISLIKE THEM.
I DO, BUT I HAVE A TERRIFIC ATTITUDE ABOUT IT.
DILBERT.COM @SCOTTADAMSSAYS
12-18-20 2020 Scott Adams, Inc./Dist. by Andrews McMeel

GARFIELD

GARFIELD AND I MADE CHRISTMAS COOKIES
WOULD YOU LIKE ONE?
SURE!
THIS YEAR WE USED MY COOKIE CUTTER
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JIM DAVIS 12-18

FORT KNOX

YOUR MOTHER'S THE WRONG PERSON TO PLAY SANTA.
I AGREE, JANE...
DON'T BLAME ME
BUT, IN PLAYING SANTA, SHE MIGHT LEARN TO BECOME MORE LIKE HIM.
HO-HO HOLD ON
SO YOU HOPE SHE'LL BE MORE GIVING?
RING MY BELL
NO, VISIT ONCE A YEAR.
ONE AND DONE
© 2020 Paul Jon. Dist. by Washington Post Writers Group
12/18

PICKLES

TWO DIFFERENT APPROACHES TO HOLIDAY SHOPPING:
WHEW! I CAN'T BELIEVE I WAITED UNTIL DECEMBER EIGHTEENTH TO FIN- ISH MY SHOPPING.
I HAVEN'T STARTED YET. IT'S ONLY DECEMBER EIGHTEENTH.
HAVE YOU GOT YOUR SHOPPING DONE YET, EARL?
12-18-20 © 2020 Brian Crane. All rights reserved. Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication
arlocomic.com

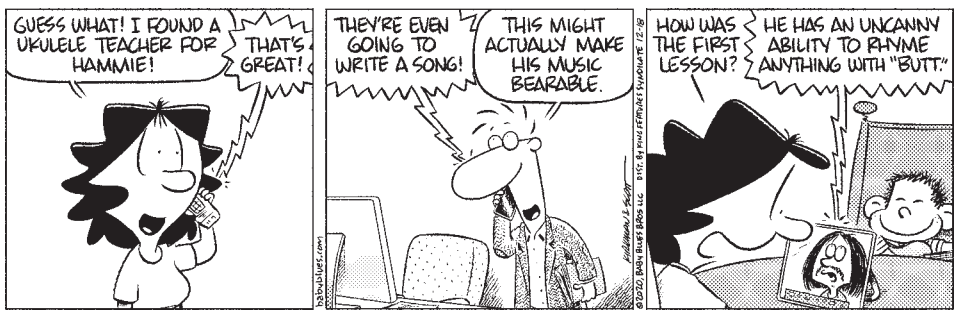
FAMILY CIRCUS

"Kittycat's ruinin' Christmas!"

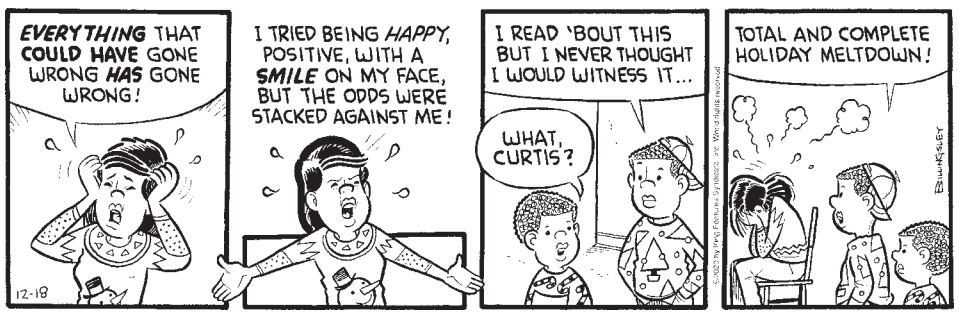
DENNIS THE MENACE

"I THINK YOUR ELVES ARE SLACKIN' OFF... I GOT A GIFT CARD FOR CHRISTMAS LAST YEAR!"

BABY BLUES


GUESS WHAT! I FOUND A UKULELE TEACHER FOR HAMMIE!
THAT'S GREAT!
THEY'RE EVEN GOING TO WRITE A SONG!
THIS MIGHT ACTUALLY MAKE HIS MUSIC BEARABLE.
HOW WAS THE FIRST LESSON?
HE HAS AN UNCANNY ABILITY TO RHYME ANYTHING WITH "BUTT."
©2020 Baby Blues Bros LLC Dist. by King Features Syndicate 12-18
babyblues.com

CURTIS


EVERYTHING THAT COULD HAVE GONE WRONG HAS GONE WRONG!
I TRIED BEING HAPPY, POSITIVE, WITH A SMILE ON MY FACE, BUT THE ODDS WERE STACKED AGAINST ME!
I READ 'BOUT THIS BUT I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD WITNESS IT...
WHAT, CURTIS?
TOTAL AND COMPLETE HOLIDAY MELTDOWN!
12-18
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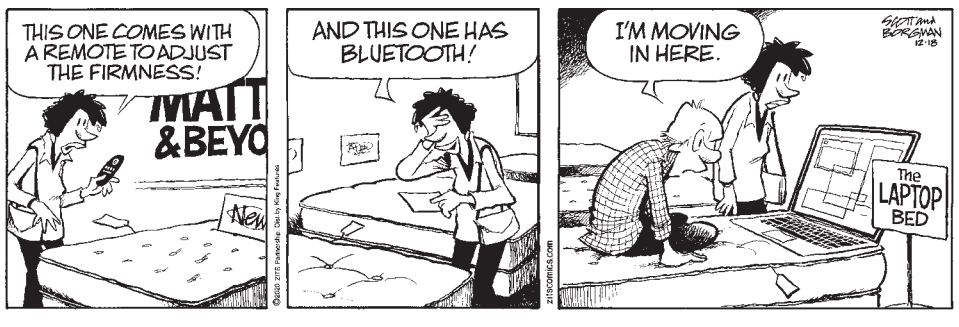
BUCKLESEY

ZITS


THIS ONE COMES WITH A REMOTE TO ADJUST THE FIRMNESS!
AND THIS ONE HAS BLUETOOTH!
I'M MOVING IN HERE.
SCOTT and BORGMAN 12-18
The LAPTOP BED
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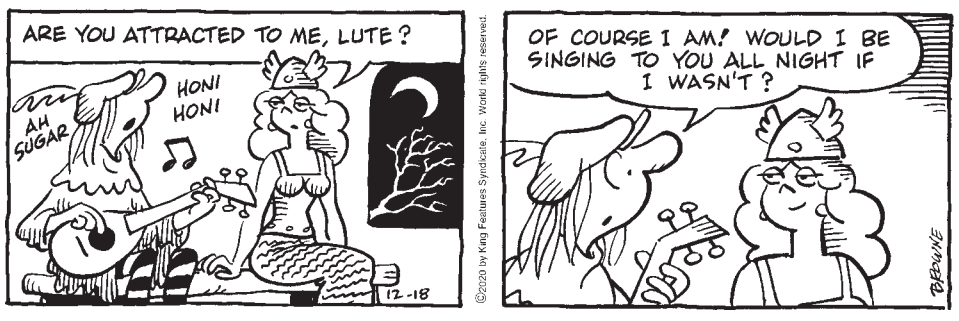
zitscomics.com

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

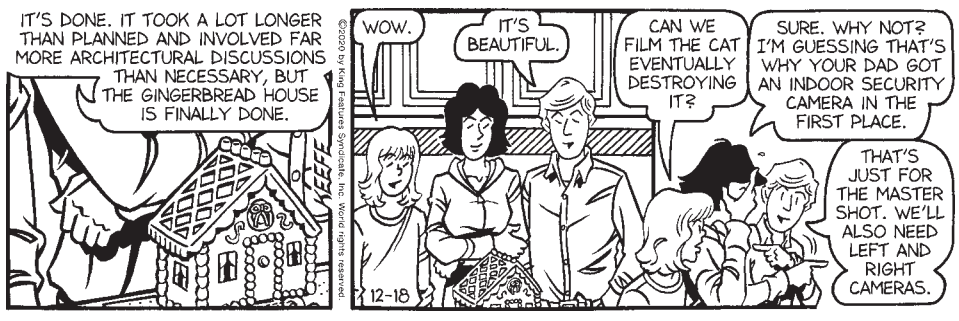

ARE YOU ATTRACTED TO ME, LUTE?
AH SUGAR
HONI HONI
12-18
©2020 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
OF COURSE I AM! WOULD I BE SINGING TO YOU ALL NIGHT IF I WASN'T?
BROOME

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

MUTTS

CAN I HAVE THIS YEAR BACK?
Ask Santa
mutts.com
www.kingfeatures.com
MUTTS ©2020 PATRICK MCDONNELL - DISTRIBUTED BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE 12-18

SALLY FORTH


IT'S DONE. IT TOOK A LOT LONGER THAN PLANNED AND INVOLVED FAR MORE ARCHITECTURAL DISCUSSIONS THAN NECESSARY, BUT THE GINGERBREAD HOUSE IS FINALLY DONE.
WOW.
IT'S BEAUTIFUL.
CAN WE FILM THE CAT EVENTUALLY DESTROYING IT?
SURE. WHY NOT? I'M GUESSING THAT'S WHY YOUR DAD GOT AN INDOOR SECURITY CAMERA IN THE FIRST PLACE.
THAT'S JUST FOR THE MASTER SHOT. WE'LL ALSO NEED LEFT AND RIGHT CAMERAS.
12-18
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Tony Wittkowski
@TonyWittkowski

Alexandra Newman
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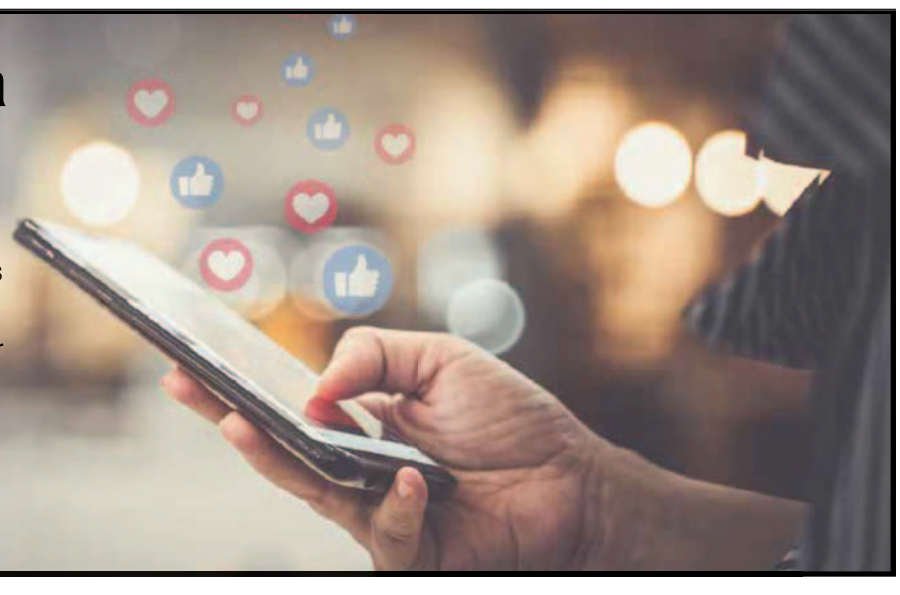
Louise Wrege
@HPWrege

Jane Ammeson
@HPAmmeson

Julie Swidwa
@HPSwidwa

Ben Sanders
@HPBenSanders

Ben Spencer
@HPBenSpencer



hp SPORTS

In wake of Indians' decision, Blackhawks stay with team name

By JAY COHEN
Associated Press

CHICAGO — The Chicago Blackhawks are going to remain the Blackhawks and there is no sign of a change coming anytime soon.

Speaking publicly for the first time since baseball's Cleveland Indians announced Monday they plan to change their name, Blackhawks CEO Danny Wirtz reiterated the same message the team shared this summer after lingering questions about Native American team names returned to the forefront.

"Obviously respect the decision the Cleveland Indians made to go down that path, but we continue to deepen our commitment to upholding our namesake and our brand," Wirtz said Thursday.

In July, after Washington's NFL team announced it was reviewing its name, the Blackhawks said they planned to continue with their name because it honors Black Hawk, a Native American leader from Illinois' Sac & Fox Nation. Washington ended up dropping the "Redskins" name, logo and all Native American imagery. The Indians announced their decision this week, while the NFL's Kansas City Chiefs and baseball's Atlanta Braves have said they have no plans to change their name.

The Blackhawks also said this summer they are committed "to raising the bar even higher" when it comes to expanding awareness of Black Hawk and all Native American people – and Wirtz, the son of Blackhawks owner Rocky Wirtz, made it sound as if that effort had only reinforced what the franchise felt about its name. The team announced later in July that they were banning headdresses at home games as part of their pledge to honor the Native American community.

"Obviously respect the decision the Cleveland Indians made to go down that path, but we continue to deepen our commitment to upholding our namesake and our brand."

DANNY WIRTZ
Blackhawks CEO

"The work we've been doing over the last several months in expanding and deepening conversations and partnerships within the native community, we continue to feel really positive about the types of work we can do," Danny Wirtz said, "the way in which we can be better stewards of the namesake and the history, and to use our platforms to be educators, not only for our fans, but for our internal teams and making sure that we provide that reverence and respect that we talk about."

Danny Wirtz, 43, made his remarks a day after the Blackhawks shuffled their front office. Wirtz was named chief executive officer after serving as interim president following the firing of John McDonough in April. General manager Stan Bowman was elevated to president of hockey operations, and Jaime Faulkner was hired as president of business operations.

Barry Reeger / AP

Michigan State quarterback Payton Thorne drops back to pass against Penn State during Saturday's game.

Michigan State, Maryland canceled again by COVID-19

By DAVID GINSBURG
Associated Press

In yet another twist to this crazy college football season, a matchup between Maryland and Michigan State has been canceled a second time after an outbreak of COVID-19 in College Park.

The Terrapins (2-3) were slated to face the Spartans (2-5) on Saturday night as part of the Big Ten "Champions Week."

But on Thursday afternoon, Maryland released this statement:

"Under the guidance and advice from university medical staff, Maryland Athletics has canceled Saturday's scheduled football game against Michigan State. The game will not be rescheduled. All team training activities have been paused."

Maryland said that 15 football players tested positive for COVID-19 from Dec. 10-16. Antigen tests conducted Thursday morning resulted in three more presumptive positives, and there were six positive cases among staff over that same time period.

So, once again, a game the Terps and Spartans was called off just two days before it was to be played.

The original plan by the Big Ten was to match teams from opposite divisions in this additional week, but since the Terrapins and Spartans had their Nov. 21 game wiped off the schedule, they were going to try again Saturday night.

Not anymore.

"This has been a season of promise and of adversity," Maryland coach Michael Locksley said. "Our team has demonstrated a tremendous work ethic, resolve and displayed Maryland pride throughout this unique season. We have battled two opponents each week, the team we matched up with on the field and COVID. Together, we experienced tremendous highs and we are deeply disappointed that we will not be able to test ourselves on the field against Michigan State."

Maryland ended up playing five games this season and having four canceled. Home games against Ohio State and two against Michigan State was called off because of a COVID-19 outbreak in College Park, and the Dec. 5 game at Michigan was canceled because of virus issue among the Wolverines.

Even when they played, the Terrapins often were left short-handed. Four players missed last week's game against Rutgers because of "medical reasons," including starting quarterback Taulia Tagovailoa sat out the Rutgers game for "medical reasons" according to the team, which does not specify which players test positive for COVID-19.

Wildcats try to end Buckeyes' title run

By MICHAEL MAROT
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Northwestern quarterback Peyton Ramsey grew up around the Ohio State mystique, the son of a high school football coach in Cincinnati.

As others in the football-crazed state gathered round television sets to watch their beloved Buckeyes each weekend, Ramsey was never much of a fan. Still isn't.

So on Saturday, the quarterback for No. 15 Northwestern will try to cap his college career by knocking No. 3 Ohio State off its Big Ten perch – and perhaps out of the playoff.

"I was a Notre Dame fan growing up, but I was a Big Ten fan," Ramsey said. "This will be my fifth time playing against them, it's always been exciting. It's always been fun to go out and compete against the big boys."

Even if the first four tries didn't exactly go Ramsey's way, all four while he was suiting up with Indiana. When he transferred to Northwestern after last season, it looked like Ramsey might be finished with the Buckeyes (5-0 Big Ten, No. 4 CFP).

Instead, Ramsey won the starting job and led the Wildcats (7-1) back to their second Big Ten championship game in three years.

The reward: Another date with East Division champion Ohio State.

Two years ago, the Buckeyes pulled away from Northwestern late to secure a 45-24 victory and a school-record tying second straight outright title. Now, they're back looking to make it four in a row – and another playoff shot.

Ohio State has hung onto the No. 4 spot in the rankings for weeks and though some have argued the ACC should get two teams in – No. 2 Notre Dame and No. 4 Clemson – Ohio State coach Ryan Day insists his team belongs.

Al Goldis / AP

Ohio State's Trey Sermon, right, rushes against Michigan State's Xavier Henderson during the a game Dec. 5 in East Lansing. Ohio State won 52-12.

"We've had an amazing amount of challenges, way more than anybody else in the country, in my opinion," Day said. "The minute we went back in inside in November, December the (COVID-19) numbers just jumped through the roof. We've had disappointments, we've had games canceled, we've had the season canceled.

"We have really talented young men who stuck together," he added. "And if people can't see that, then that's their problem."

And now, all that stands in the way is a group of Ohio high school graduates – running backs Isaiah Bowser and Cam Porter, Ramsey among them – and a team hungry to prove it can achieve the unthinkable.

"We're really excited," Ramsey said. "My teammates are really excited, family's really excited to go out and compete and have fun."

Fielding Heisman questions

Ohio State quarterback Justin Fields was named the league's Offensive Player of the Year even though it appears another preseason goal – winning the Heisman Trophy – appears unattainable.

Fields was a finalist last year and has again played well this season, completing nearly 80 percent of his throws with 15 TD passes in five games. and all three of his interceptions came in a 42-35 victory over No. 7 Indiana.

But Fields insists he's not bothered.

"I tend to focus on things that I can control," he said. "The number of games or whatever comes into effect in winning that award, I can't control that. What I can control is going out there and playing my hardest for my teammates and my brothers to try to put together a good game."

Leaning on defense

It's no secret why the Wildcats are back in the title game.

They rely on defense.

Northwestern has allowed a league-low 14.6 points per game, just 4.1 points in the second half and is ranked in top five in conference play against the pass, against the run and overall.

And Big Ten linebacker of the year Paddy Fisher is one of three Wildcats with 200 or more career tackles, making Northwestern the only power-five school to hold that distinction.

Life's lessons

This season has been tough on everyone, but Ohio State guard Wyatt Davis believes the twists and turns have given players some a different perspective on life.

"I definitely learned to be more appreciative of the game of football and life itself," he said. "So many people lost their lives unfortunately this year to COVID. And then on the other half, the football aspect, people not being able to play after they get COVID because of the heart condition. It's just crazy. It's made me more grateful for my life."

Lawmakers introduce NCAA reform bill

By RALPH D. RUSSO
AP College Sports Writer

A bill being introduced Thursday by four Democratic lawmakers would grant college athletes sweeping rights to compensation, including a share of the revenue generated by their sports, and create a federal commission to oversee college athletics.

The College Athletes Bill of Rights is sponsored by Sens. Cory Booker (D-N.J.), Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.), and Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-Ill.). If passed, it could wreak havoc on the NCAA's ability to govern intercollegiate athletics and the association's model for amateurism.

The announcement of the bill comes a day after the Supreme Court agreed to review a court ruling the NCAA says blurs the "line between student-athletes and professionals" by removing caps on certain compensation that major college football and basketball players can receive.

The NCAA has turned to Congress for help as it works toward permitting athletes to earn money from endorsements and sponsorship deals, while also trying to fend off myriad state-level bills that would undercut any attempt to create uniform rules for competing schools.

Last week, Sen. Roger Wicker (R-Miss.), chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, introduced a bill that would allow college athletes to be paid for their names, images and likenesses, with oversight from the Federal Trade Commission. The bill also protects the NCAA from future antitrust challenges to its compensation rules.

Booker and Blumenthal's bill, however, goes way beyond NIL rights for athletes and is not nearly as NCAA-friendly.

The legislation would allow college athletes to earn money off their names, images and likenesses with minimal restrictions, through either individual or group licensing deals.

It would also require schools to share 50 percent of the profit from their revenue-generating sports such as football and basketball with the athletes who play them, after the cost of scholarships are deducted.

Some of the biggest athletic departments in the country, such as Ohio State, Alabama and Texas, generate more than $100 million in revenue annually, the bulk of which comes from football and men's basketball.

CMW debuts Holiday Cabaret on Sunday

STEVENSVILLE — Children's Music Workshop will present its first ever virtual Holiday Cabaret on Sunday afternoon.

CMW performers – past, present and future – collaborated with CMW directors to work on various songs, dances and comedy for the show. Performers recorded themselves at home, and CMW put together the all-ages show.

The show debuts at 3 p.m. Viewers can purchase an online ticket by visiting cmw.anywhereseat.com/channel.php.

Ticket prices are up to the viewers. Suggested prices are $15 per family or $5 for an individual.

The ticket link to the show will be available for a week. One ticket will allow viewers to watch the show multiple times at their convenience.

For more information about Children's Music Workshop, visit www.cmwonline.org.

THE GUIDE

Editor's Note: In these uncertain times, events can change quickly. Be sure to check with venues for the latest updates and possible cancellations.

TODAY

The Backsliders: 6-9 p.m., Vineyard 2121 Winery & Tasting Room, 4110 Red Arrow Highway, Benton Harbor; free; 849-0109 or www.vineyard2121.com

Chris Burch Trio: 7 p.m., Four Winds Casino Resort's Kankakee Grille, 11111 Wilson Road, New Buffalo; 866-494-6371 or www.fourwindscasino.com

The Acorn Theater presents Jeff Daniels: 8 p.m., online via Cloudcast; $15; 756-3879 or www.acornlive.org

SATURDAY

Children's Music Workshop hosts Virtual Visits with Santa: noon-2 p.m., online via Zoom; free, but donations accepted; limited space, registration required; www.facebook.com/events/215546099953063

Drive-thru Christmas in a Bag: 3-6 p.m., First Church of God, 2627 Niles Ave., St. Joseph; free; 983-1524 or www.myfirstchurch.com

Berrien County Youth Fair's Carpool Cinema presents "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation": 6 p.m. (gate 2 opens at 4:30 p.m.); $25 per car (tune into 88.3 FM); Berrien County Youth Fairgrounds, 9122 U.S. Highway 31, Berrien Springs; bcyf.us

Jason Paul: 3 p.m., **Gemini:** 7 p.m., Four Winds Casino Resort's Kankakee Grille, 11111 Wilson Road, New Buffalo; 866-494-6371 or www.fourwindscasino.com

Visit with Santa: 4-6 p.m., Fusion Center for Dance, 2162 Plaza Drive, Benton Harbor; free; 985-8144 or www.fusioncenterfordance.com

The Citadel Spectacular: 6:30 p.m., online, livestreamed from The Citadel Dance & Music Center; $15 suggested donation; 925-9440 or citadeldmc.org

Lauren Dukes Band: 7 p.m., Casey's New Buffalo, 136 N. Whittaker St., New Buffalo; 469-6400 or www.caseysnewbuffalo.com

SUNDAY

Twin City Players premieres "Bah, Humbug!": 2 p.m., online via TCP's Facebook page; free; 429-0400 or www.twincityplayers.org, facebook.com/twincityplayers

Robert Rolfe Feddersen: 2-5 p.m., Haymarket Taproom, 9301 Red Arrow Highway, Bridgman; free; 266-5050 or www.haymarketbeer.com

Brook Farm String Band: 4 p.m., Harbor Light Brewery, 516 Phoenix St., South Haven; 299-7760 or www.harborlightbrewing.com

Lakeshore Community Chorus premieres "The Gift of Music: A Holiday Collage": 4 p.m., online via Facebook; free; www.facebook.com/Lakeshore-Community-Chorus-234459063234410

Rob Yocom: 5 p.m., Four Winds Casino Resort's Kankakee Grille, 11111 Wilson Road, New Buffalo; 866-494-6371 or www.fourwindscasino.com

THURSDAY

Storytime with Santa and Mrs. Claus: 1 p.m., online via North Berrien Historical Museum's Facebook page; 468-3330 or www.northberrienhistory.org, www.facebook.com/NorthBerrienHistory

Trivia Night: 7-9 p.m., Sister Lakes Brewing Co., 92500 County Road 690, Dowagiac; 332-5135 or sisterlakesbrewing.com

DEC. 26

Chris Behre: 3 p.m., Four Winds Casino Resort's Kankakee Grille, 11111 Wilson Road, New Buffalo; 866-494-6371 or www.fourwindscasino.com

DEC. 27

Imphormal: 5 p.m., Four Winds Casino Resort's Kankakee Grille, 11111 Wilson Road, New Buffalo; 866-494-6371 or www.fourwindscasino.com

DEC. 29

"The Office"-themed trivia night: 7:30 p.m., Silver Harbor Brewing Co., 721 Pleasant St., St. Joseph; 281-7100 or www.silverharborbrewing.com

DEC. 30

Checkmark Sallie: 7 p.m., Wegners Lakeside Bar & Grill, 2628 Lake Shore Drive, Niles; free; 683-1558 or wegners-lakeside-bar-grill.business.site

DEC. 31

Dan Reisen: 6 p.m., **Michael Paterson:** 10 p.m., Four Winds Casino Resort's C Bar, 11111 Wilson Road, New Buffalo; 866-494-6371 or www.fourwindscasino.com

Chad Thompson: 7 p.m., Four Winds Casino Resort's Copper Rock Steakhouse, 11111 Wilson Road, New Buffalo; 866-494-6371 or www.fourwindscasino.com

Trivia Night: 7-9 p.m., Sister Lakes Brewing Co., 92500 County Road 690, Dowagiac; 332-5135 or sisterlakesbrewing.com

The Crawpuppies: 10 p.m., Four Winds Casino Resort's Kankakee Grille, 11111 Wilson Road, New Buffalo; 866-494-6371 or fourwindscasino.com

ART EXHIBITS

South Haven Center for the Arts' 35th Annual Mistletoe Market (virtual): through Wednesday; 637-1041 or southhavenarts.org/virtual

2020 Members Show: through Jan. 16, Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph; free; 983-3688 or boxfactoryforthearts.org

"You Won't Part With Yours Either: Robert Perine and the Fender Guitar, 1957-1969": through Jan. 20; ARS Gallery/Arts & Culture Center, 147 Fifth St., Benton Harbor; free; 277-5090 or arsartsandculture.org

"Artists As Influencers: Pathways in Glass" and **"Shelter-in-Place":** through Jan. 24 (virtual and in-person by appointment), Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph; free; 983-0271 or krasl.org

FILM

Virtual screenings: "10 Days With Dad": price not yet announced; **"Night Shift":** price not yet announced; **"SOL":** price not yet announced; **"Finding Yingying":** $12; **"76 Days":** $12; **"Harry Chapin: When in Doubt, Do Something":** $4.99; **"Blindfire":** $7.99; **"Citizens of the World":** $10; **"Chuck Leavell: The Tree Man":** $12; **"Martin Eden":** $12 for 5-day rental; **"The Keeper":** $12; **"Herb Alpert Is":** $12, Vickers Theatre; 756-3522 or vickerstheatre.com

ATTRACTIONS

Holiday train display: 4-7 p.m. Dec. 18, 23-24, noon-5 p.m. Dec. 19-20, 25-27, South Haven Center, 335 Center St., South Haven; free, donations of toys, money, nonperishable food accepted; 299-7760 or www.harborlightbrewing.com

Light Up the Bluff: all day, through Feb. 14, Lake Bluff Park, Lake Boulevard, St. Joseph; free; 985-1111 or stjoetoday.com

PRIME TIME TV

FRIDAY EVENING DEC. 18

	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30
ABC 7 13 41 57	Wheel of Fortune	Olaf Adventure	Shrek the Halls	:01 20/20 (N) CC			
CBS 2 3 22	Ent. Tonight	MacGyver (N) CC		Magnum P.I. "No Way Out" (N) CC		Blue Bloods "Atonement" (N)	
NBC 5 8 16	Race in Chicago	Weakest Link CC (DVS)		Dateline NBC (N) CC			
FOX 17 222 28 32	Pac-12 Preg	College Football Pac-12 Championship: Teams TBA. (N) (L)					
PBS 34	Black Journal	Washington Week	Firing-Hoover	Ella Wishes You a Swinging		Southold Dance Theatre-The Nutcracker	
CW 25	Big Bang Theory	The Christmas Caroler Challenge "Four to the Finals" The final four compete. (N)				News	Seinfeld CC
MNT 50	Family Feud	Dateline "Reckless" CC		Law & Order: Criminal Intent CC		Law & Order: Criminal Intent "Zoonotic"	
WCIU 26	Mike & Molly	The Christmas Caroler Challenge "Four to the Finals" The final four compete. (N)				King of Queens	King of Queens
WHME 46	:00 Heartland	Heartland "Past Imperfect"		Highway to Heaven (Part 2 of 2) CC		Nightly News	
WGN 9	News	black-ish CC	black-ish	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	WGN News at Nine (N) (L) CC	
A&E	:00 The First 48	The First 48: My First Homicide (N)		Live Rescue "Live Rescue -- 12.18.20" (N) CC			
AMC	The Polar Express	📽 ★★ Four Christmases ('08) Vince Vaughn, Reese Witherspoon. CC				📽 ★★★ Love Actually ('03) CC	
Animal	Monsters	River Monsters		River Monsters: Deadliest Man-Eaters (N)			
BET	:00 📽 ★ Big Mommas: Like Father, Like Son ('11)					Tyler Perry's Sistas	
Big Ten	To Be Announced					Big Ten	Campus
Bravo	It's Complicated	:11 📽 ★★ Fifty Shades of Grey ('15) Dakota Johnson. An inexperienced student begins a daring love affair. CC (DVS)					
Cartoon	Teen	Apple	Apple	Burgers	American	American	Rick
Cinemax	★ Disaster Movie	📽 ★★ Surrogates ('09) Bruce Willis. (P). CC			📽 ★★ Safe House ('12, Action) Denzel Washington. CC		
CMT	Last Man	Bar Rescue CC		Bar Rescue CC		Bar Rescue CC	
CNBC	S. Smith	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank	
CNN	OutFront	Anderson Cooper		Cuomo Prime Time		CNN Tonight	
Comedy	Office	Creek	Creek	Creek	Creek	Creek	Creek
Discovery	:00 Gold Rush	Gold Rush (N) CC					
Disney	Raven	Raven's Home (N)		Music	Raven	Holiday Magic Quest	
DIY	Beach	Beachfrnt Reno		Beachfrnt Reno		Beachfrnt Reno	
E!	:00 📽 Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit				📽 ★★ Last Holiday ('06)		
ESPN	College Football MAC Championship: Teams TBA. (N) (L)						Basket
ESPN2	NBA	NBA Preseason Basketball: Nets at Celtics					SportCtr
ESPNC	6:00 NBA	College Football From Nov. 25, 1995.				College Football	
Food	Diners	Diners, Drive		Diners, Drive		Diners	Diners
Fox News	The Story	Tucker Carlson		Hannity (N) CC		The Ingraham Angle	
Fox Sports	Tennis	Red Wings Classics Game 3.					Lions
Freefrm	6:55 📽 ★ The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause ('06) CC			📽 ★★ Dr. Seuss' The Grinch ('18) Voices of Benedict Cumberbatch. (P).			
FX	The Boss Baby ('17)	📽 ★★ Despicable Me 3 ('17) Voices of Steve Carell, Kristen Wiig, Trey Parker. CC				📽 ★★ Minions ('15) Jon Hamm CC	
Golf	LPGA Golf			Golf PNC Champion		Central	Central
Hallmark	Check Inn to	📽 Once Upon a Christmas Miracle ('18, Drama) Aimee Teegarden, Brett Dalton. CC				📽 Reunited at Christmas ('18) CC	
HBO	His Dark Materials	📽 ★★ The Chronicles of Riddick ('04) Vin Diesel, Colm Feore. CC				Industry "Learned Behaviour" CC	
History	Aliens	Ancient Aliens		Ancient Aliens (N)		:03 Ancient Aliens	
HGTV	Dream	Dream	Dream	Christmas		Home for Christmas	
Learning	Chantel	90 Day Fiancé "Shame on You"				90 Day	Chantel
Lifetime	Merry Liddle	📽 Christmas on the Menu ('20) Kim Shaw, Clayton James. (P). CC				:03 📽 A Christmas in Tennessee	
MSNBC	ReidOut	All In With		Rachel Maddow		The Last Word	
MTV	Delicious.	Delicious.	Delicious.	Delicious.	Delicious.	Ridic.	Ridic.
NBCSCH	Football	Boxing				World Poker Tour	
NFL	NFL Total	NFL GameDay View		NFL Football CC			
Nick	Danger	All-Star Nickmas		Sheldon	Sheldon	Friends	Friends
NGEO	Area 51	CIA, Experiments		Air Force One		US Secret Service	
Oxygen	:00 Dateline: Secrets Uncovered Jessica Nelson is a single mom.			A Rage-ful Christmas (N)		Mistletoe & Mourning (N)	
Parmt	:00 📽 ★★ The A-Team ('10) Liam Neeson. CC					Hitman-Body	
Showtime	6:30 📽 ★★ Armageddon ('98) Bruce Willis, Liv Tyler. CC			Your Honor "Part Two" CC		:05 📽 ★ The Turning ('20) CC	
Starz	Deep Impact ('98)	📽 ★★★ Elf ('03, Children's) Will Ferrell, James Caan. CC			:40 📽 ★★ Bruce Almighty ('03, Comedy) Jim Carrey. CC		
STZENC	Friday 13th-8	📽 ★★ Friday the 13th ('80, Horror) Betsy Palmer. CC			:39 📽 ★ Friday the 13th, Part 2 ('81) Amy Steel. CC		
SyFy	:00 📽 ★★★ Shrek ('01) Voices of Mike Myers. CC			📽 ★★★ Shrek ('01, Children's) Voices of Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy. CC			
TBS	Seinfeld	📽 ★★ Central Intelligence ('16, Action) Dwayne Johnson, Kevin Hart. CC (DVS)				📽 ★★ Let's Be Cops ('14) (P).	
TCM	Best Yrs-Lives	📽 ★★★ Remember the Night ('40) Barbara Stanwyck.			:45 📽 ★★★★ The Apartment ('60) Jack Lemmon. CC		
TMC	Officer-Gentle	📽 ★★★ The First Wives Club ('96) Goldie Hawn. CC			:45 📽 Hampstead ('17) Diane Keaton, Brendan Gleeson. CC		
TNT	Grinch	📽 ★★ Jingle All the Way ('96) CC				Shrek Forever After	
Travel	Paranorm.	The Osbournes Want to Believe (N) CC				Paranormal Ca.	
TV Land	Andy G.	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond
USA	Chicago P.D. "Intimate Violence"	📽 ★★★ Ant-Man ('15) Paul Rudd. Ant-Man uses his shrinking skills to battle Yellowjacket. CC (DVS)					
VH1	:00 📽 ★ Little Fockers ('10)			📽 ★ Dirty Grandpa ('16) (P). CC			
WGN-A	Last Man Standing	NewsNation (N) (L) CC		NewsNation (N) (L) CC		NewsNation (N) (L) CC	

You don't have to be outside all day to reap nature's benefits

DEAR DOCTORS: We're all pretty stressed-out, even the kids. I keep saying that spending a Saturday in the nice park near our house could help, but my husband just laughs. Isn't there some kind of research that being outdoors is good for you?

Elizabeth Ko & Eve Glazier
Ask the Doctors

DEAR READER: Just thinking about a walk under the open sky as we began our answer to you brought about a sigh of relief. It makes sense, because long before we humans started spending so much time in built environments, we were deeply connected to the natural world. Many people have an innate understanding about that connection, and years of research backs them up.

Studies show that regularly spending time outdoors confers a host of mental health benefits. These include relief of anxiety and stress, a boost to feelings of calm, enjoyment and well-being, and improvements to mood and attitude. And that's not taking into account the positive effect that even mild exercise, like walking, has on the body.

It seems like the link between time spent in nature and emotional well-being would be hard to prove, but researchers from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor found a way. In fact, according to their study, published in 2019 in the journal Frontiers in Psychology, as little as 20 minutes spent outside in nature can have a healing effect. As an added surprise, their study showed the connection holds up even when the green space is in an urban environment.

Over the course of two months, the researchers had 36 volunteers spend at least 10 minutes three times per week in a variety of outdoor environments. These included public parks, the green spaces near their places of work or their own backyards. The participants could either sit still or stroll around during their outdoor time, but they were banned from chatting, reading or using screens of any kind. In order to rule out the known benefits of exercise, they were also asked to refrain from vigorous physical activity prior to their nature walks.

Before and after each outing, samples of saliva, which contains the stress hormone cortisol, were collected from each volunteer. Analysis of the saliva samples revealed that the volunteers returned from their nature outings with lower levels of cortisol than they started out with. Surprisingly, the biggest drops in the stress hormone occurred in the first 20 to 30 minutes of nature immersion. Benefits continued after that, but more gradually. Neither the time of day that someone chose to be outdoors nor where they spent their time played a role in the stress reduction. According to this study, the simple act of stepping outside into a green space began to bring relief.

The time frame that this study reveals is certainly new, but research about the benefits of spending time in nature dates back to the 1970s. We hope that, with proximity to a park and the low bar of 20 to 30 minutes, you'll be able to persuade your family to make being outdoors a regular part of their lives.

Eve Glazier, M.D., MBA, is an internist and associate professor of medicine at UCLA Health. Elizabeth Ko, M.D., is an internist and assistant professor of medicine at UCLA Health. Send your questions to ask thedoctors@mednet.ucla.edu. Owing to the volume of mail, personal replies cannot be provided.

Brother's silence at family events hurts

DEAR CAROLYN: Last year, my brother married his longtime girlfriend, who we have not always had a good relationship with, but we pulled it together and supported them and their wedding, and I now feel she is part of the family.

Carolyn Hax

We all know our parents had difficulties at times when they raised us, and I certainly felt alienated from them as a young adult. But I eventually made my peace with them, accepted they have changed, and now they are a huge and important part of my life.

My brother seems to have taken the opposite approach. Ever since his marriage, he has moved farther and farther apart from us, participating in family rituals – birthdays, holidays, etc. – but being completely silent otherwise, not returning phone calls and texts.

I understand he is allowed to choose who he wants to associate with, and if his path to healing means not seeing us, then that is his decision. But it hurts me and it hurts my parents, and I wonder if it is OK for me to say something to him – and, if so, what I should say.

I want to have him in my life but I also accept it if he does not want to be. What should I do? – C.

DEAR C.: It appears you're doing a lot right. Respecting that your brother is entitled to his own impressions, feelings and choices is foremost, and showing him that kind of respect is your best path to preserving your connection to him.

Your rallying through doubts to embrace his now-wife is an important element of that. You've also taken a mature position on your parents and their frailties. In general, by your account, you've adopted a forgiveness-based attitude toward your family where no shortage of people turn combative instead. Great.

In two four-word phrases, however, you reveal yourself as being at two different crossroads where the wrong choice could undermine everything you hope to achieve.

The first: "ever since his marriage." Again, you're embracing his wife as family, rightly. But if you let yourself ooze around that firewall into blaming her for his absence, then you'll wake up one day as her antagonist – and he'll sense that, guaranteed. If he hasn't already caught the same hint I did.

So please keep this in mind: Sometimes partners drive wedges into families, yes. But people also choose partners who *help them act on their own impulses* to distance from family.

It's not a subtle distinction; the former makes it the wife's idea, and the latter your brother's. Let this possibility keep you neutral.

The second: "it hurts my parents." Of course it does. But aligning yourself with them as their spokeschild – making their pain your cause and taking it up with your brother – forces your brother to treat you and your parents as a unit. That not only includes you in any further estrangement he chooses, but also increases the likelihood he'll choose it.

Just watching a Team Parents coalition form could be enough to convince him that the family dysfunction is too entrenched to deal with.

So, recognize these crossroads and pick wisely: Your brother speaks for himself, you speak for you – just saying you miss him, perhaps – and you nurture whatever connection is left. Best chance, no guarantees. Good luck.

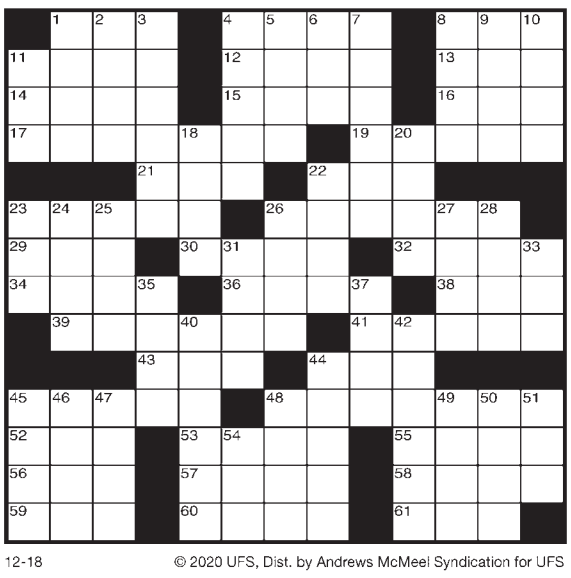
Email Carolyn Hax at tellme@washpost.com, follow her on Facebook at www.facebook.com/carolyn.hax or chat with her online at noon each Friday at www.washingtonpost.com.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Office machine
4 Barter
8 Before, in combos
11 Zeus' wife
12 Animal's home
13 Relief
14 Leading
15 Woody's son
16 Eggy drink
17 Decrees
19 "— Davis Eyes"
21 Banned bug spray
22 Hack
23 Ski bump
26 Mannequins
29 Hole-making tool
30 Cousteau's middle name
32 Code of procedure
34 High notes
36 Conductor — Klemperer
38 Head movement
39 Erase
41 Tells a secret
43 Previous
44 Maude portrayer
45 Pal, slangily
48 Fridays, often
52 Cpl. or Sgt.
53 Clock's front
55 Occasion for leis
56 Gives the go-ahead
57 Ms. Falco
58 Sea eagle
59 Farewell
60 Smooth wood
61 Decline, as stock prices

DOWN
1 Suspect
2 Desertlike
3 "Kubla Khan" locale
4 Bias
5 All-out fights
6 Have the flu
7 Examined thoroughly
8 Huff and puff
9 Public disorder
10 Verge
11 RN employer
18 Unthinkingly
20 Big pitcher
22 Emcee
23 Raincoat
24 Got in debt
25 Delight
26 Give out sparingly
27 The moon
28 Neatnik opposite
31 Pull the lever
33 MS polishers
35 Yukon hauler
37 Not resist
40 Wears away
42 Tureen servers
44 Processed cotton
45 Door opener
46 Gummy
47 Prescribed amount
48 Twinge
49 Distinctive air
50 Yin complement
51 Ms. Grafton
54 Mont. neighbor

Answer to Previous Puzzle



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JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SUISE

UCROC

JOLCAE

CAVITE

This is a great deal on this cheese. Don't you love Brie?
Totally! I can finally afford to get some.
50% OFF
12/18
THE CHEESE WAS 50% OFF, WHICH ALLOWED THE CUSTOMER TO ---

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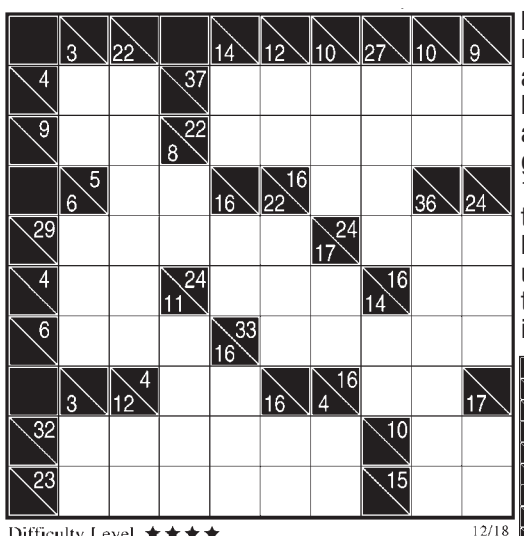
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print your answer here: " ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) " ( ) ( )

(Answers tomorrow)

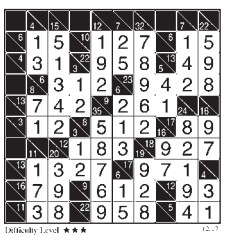
Yesterday's Jumbles: WAGER OFTEN LOCKET LUXURY
Answer: His first attempt at adding up the numbers was — TOTALLY WRONG

KAKURO



Difficulty Level ★★★★ 12/18

How to play: Numbers above the slash are across clues; numbers below the slash are down clues. The goal is to enter digits 1-9 in the white cells to add up to the number clues. You cannot use any digit more than once when adding up to a clue.



Difficulty Level ★★★ 12-17

BRIDGE

Louis Tomlinson, an English singer-songwriter, said, "In my first video diary, I explained my love for women who have a taste in carrots. Since then, I have received plenty of carrots. Now I also have a keen interest in women who like Lamborghinis."

On farms, are carrots still dangled in front of mules? At the bridge table, it is fun to dangle a carrot in front of an opponent, get him to bite and end with a great score.

In today's deal, how should South play in five diamonds after the defenders take two spade tricks, then cast adrift with a heart to declarer's bare ace?

South's sequence, one club followed by three diamonds, showed a very strong hand with fewer diamonds than clubs. When West competed to three spades, North, who had limited his hand with his initial pass, was happy to bid four diamonds. He knew that a 4-4 fit usually plays better than a 5-3 or 6-3. South moved confidently into five diamonds.

The kibitzers thought that declarer had no chance, because the clubs were not splitting 2-2. However, South spotted a chance even when clubs were 1=3. He cashed the diamond ace and diamond queen, then overtook the diamond jack with dummy's king.

Now came the carrot play – the club 10. East, holding the jack and nine, thought it couldn't cost to cover the 10 with his jack.

North 12-18-20
♠ J 10
♥ 10 6 5 2
♦ K 10 8 5
♣ 10 4 3

West
♠ K Q 7 4 3 2
♥ K Q 7 3
♦ 7 6
♣ Q

East
♠ A 9 6
♥ J 9 8 4
♦ 9 4 2
♣ J 9 2

South
♠ 8 5
♥ A
♦ A Q J 3
♣ A K 8 7 6 5

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: Both

South	West	North	East
1♣	1♠	Pass	2♠
3♦	3♠	4♦	Pass
5♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♠ K

But South won with his ace and inwardly smiled when West played the queen. Declarer overtook the carefully conserved diamond three with dummy's eight, played a club to his eight and claimed when West discarded.

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ☆☆☆☆☆

					8		7	
8				7	4		6	
			5	2			1	
		1		5			4	3
		2		8		7		
9	8			4		1		
	6			3	9			
	1		8	6				9
	9		2					

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How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

8	6	9	4	2	1	3	7	5
2	7	1	6	3	5	4	9	8
5	3	4	7	9	8	1	6	2
6	5	2	8	7	4	9	1	3
7	4	3	5	1	9	2	8	6
9	1	8	2	6	3	5	4	7
1	9	7	3	5	6	8	2	4
4	2	5	1	8	7	6	3	9
3	8	6	9	4	2	7	5	1

The Herald-Palladium

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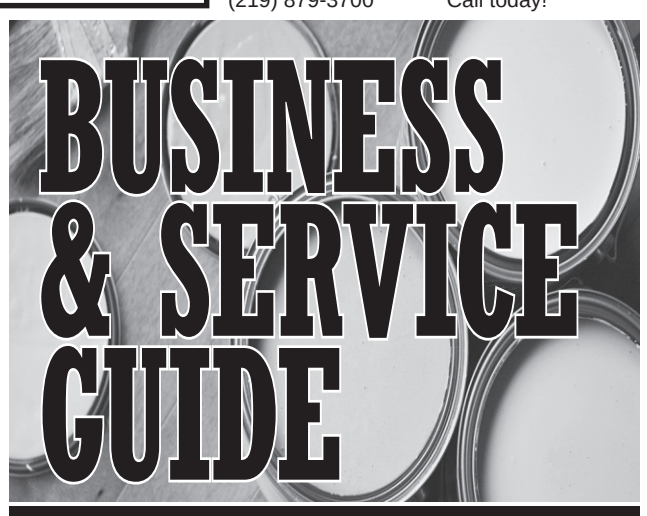

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HOROSCOPE

By EUGENIA LAST

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18

Pick up the pace and strive to turn this year into something special. Focus on your health, well-being and stature. Evaluate the past and find a way to make your dreams come true. You'll have the discipline to achieve things you never thought possible. Trust and believe in yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Put your plans in motion. You'll have what it takes to win favors and persuade others to invest in your ideas. Love and romance are encouraged, and a promise will change your life.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Align yourself with people who share your work ethic, and strive to reach a common goal. Set up a space at home that caters to health, fitness, personal growth and advancement.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Stop worrying about what others are doing. Your approach to a project will be crucial. Take physical action and get things done. Concrete results will impress someone you want on your team.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Don't trust a peer who is competing with you. Be secretive about your intentions, and don't share your ideas until you are ready to present what you have to offer. Don't make any rash moves.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You are heading into an upswing that can change your life forever. Whether you decide to learn something new, change your job or better your lifestyle, the results will be terrific.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Be careful not to take on more than you can handle. Make sure you understand what's required before you begin a project. Ask questions to avoid being put in an awkward position.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Someone will let you down if you believe everything you hear. Show compassion, but don't take on troubles that don't belong to you. Focus on what you want and how best to achieve your goals.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Pay more attention to learning, advancement and personal growth. Look for opportunities, and don't hesitate when something good comes along. Broaden your horizons and do your best to manage stress.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Focus on exercising, finishing a project or making plans with someone special. An energetic approach will lead to positive changes. Romance and kind gestures will lead to happiness.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Someone close to you will withhold information that can affect a decision you are trying to make. Look for expert advice to avoid being manipulated. Proceed with caution.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Look at the choices you have and weigh the pros and cons carefully. Don't feel that you must act in haste. Time spent with a loved one will ease stress.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Slow down, take a deep breath and rethink your plans. A creative outlet will open your mind to options you haven't considered. Avoid making a change merely for change's sake.

OBITUARIES

Milburn Burchfield

Jan. 30, 1924 – Dec. 14, 2020

Milburn Burchfield, 96, of Hartford, formerly of Newport, Ark., passed away Monday, Dec. 14, 2020, at the Willows, St. Joseph.

Due to COVID-19, a service celebrating his life for family and friends, both of Michigan and Arkansas, will be at a later date when restrictions permit. Donations in memory of Mel may be forwarded to the family in care of his daughter, Marney Santo, 121 South St., Lawrence, MI 49064. Those wishing to leave an online message of remembrance may do so at www.duffieldpastrick.com.

Mel was born on Jan. 30, 1924, in Jacksonport, Ark., to Jesse and Ruth (Warren) Burchfield.

He was an honorably discharged veteran of the U.S. Army. Mel, also known as "Fuzzy," loved fishing, going to auctions and was the owner of Fuzzy's Bargain Barn. He lived in Michigan until 1983 and then moved to Arkansas, where he resided before returning to Michigan in May of 2020. He often remarked he was going to live to be 100 and almost made it. He will be laid to rest back in Arkansas at a later date.

Survivors include three sons: Ron (Pam) Burchfield of Bangor, Kevin Burchfield of Hartford, Doug (Melvina) Burchfield of Hartford; and one daughter, Marney (Thomas) Santo of Lawrence. Also surviving is one sister, Nina Jones of Hartford; one grandchild; and five great-grandchildren.

Mel was preceded in death by his brother, Jack Burchfield; and sisters: Monnie Grimes and Agnes Moore, all of Arkansas; and a granddaughter, Hali Burchfield of Hartford.

Harold Jerome Burton

Oct. 19, 1959 – Nov. 30, 2020

Harold Jerome Burton, 61, of Benton Harbor departed this life Nov. 30, 2020.

A service celebrating his life will be Dec. 28 at the New Paradise Missionary Baptist Church, Benton Harbor. The visitation begins at 9 a.m. followed by the service at 11 a.m. Those wishing to sign the guest book online may do so at www.robbinsbrothersfh.com.

Harold was born on Oct. 19, 1959, in Memphis, Tenn., to Willie T. and Josephine Burton Sr.

He gave his life to Christ at an early age and was baptized at the New Paradise M.B.C. by his father, Pastor Willie T. Burton Sr. Harold graduated from BHHS in 1978 and attended LMC. He married the love of his life, Carolyn Patterson, on Dec. 5, 1998.

He enjoyed spending time with his family, especially fishing and camping with his grandkids. He had an avid love for building and fixing up fish tanks, watching Westerns, keeping his yard up and cooking.

His love will forever live on in the hearts of his loving wife, Carolyn Burton; parents: Willie T. and Josephine Burton Sr.; daughters: Jutay (Perry) Smith, Shamika Hooks; son Charles (Shenita) Patterson; brothers, Wille (Shannon) Burton; Duane (Lisa) Burton; and Christopher Burton; sisters: Jackie (Bruce) Haynes and Thomasina (Von Derrick) Clement; six grandchildren: Moe-nae and Quan-Dae Patterson; Perry and JuVontay Smith and Jarrod and J'viana Guidry; godson, Ebvon Williams; and a special sister-in-law, Sherrie (Henry) Nichols; and special friends Jackie McIntosh of Georgia, and Terry Ruff of Kalamazoo.

He was preceded in death by his maternal, and paternal grandparents.

Death notices

Milburn Burchfield, 96, of Hartford, formerly of Newport, Ark., died Dec. 14, 2020. Duffield & Pastrick Family Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Coloma, 468-6000.

Harold Jerome Burton, 61, of Benton Harbor died Nov. 30, 2020. Robbins Brothers Funeral Home, Benton Harbor, 927-3181.

John Raymond Genovese, 81, of St. Joseph died Dec. 17, 2020 at his residence. Starks & Menchinger Funeral Home, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

Farrell Letcher Gilliland Jr., 78, of Niles died Dec. 5, 2020. Heritage Chapel and Cremation Services, Berrien Springs, 471-2700.

Adrian Hankins, 42, of Benton Harbor died Dec. 13, 2020, at St Joseph Regional Medical Center, Mishawaka. Robbins Brothers Funeral Home, Benton Harbor, 927-3181.

Jerry W. Hoffman, 40, of Lansing, formerly of St. Joseph, died Dec. 14, 2020. Starks & Menchinger Chapel, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

Charles Lace, 82, of Dowagiac died Dec. 16, 2020, at The Timbers of Cass County, Dowagiac. Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Niles, 683-1155.

Lottie Parker, 81, formerly of Benton Harbor, died Dec. 10, 2020, in Kalamazoo. Robbins Brothers Funeral Home, Benton Harbor, 927-3181.

Martin L. Trousdale, 56, of Coloma died Dec. 13, 2020, at Lakeland Medical Center, St. Joseph. Starks & Menchinger Chapel and Cremation Service, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

Ruby Verville, 92, of Paw Paw died Dec. 15, 2020, in Paw Paw. Betzler & Thompson Life Story Funeral Home, Paw Paw, 657-3870.

Ronald Jerome Vorrath, 87, of Buchanan died Dec. 14, 2020. Allred Funeral Home, Berrien Springs, 471-3729.

James Moore Jr.,

Aug. 4, 1965 – Dec. 3, 2020

James Moore Jr., 55, of Benton Harbor departed this life Dec. 3, 2020.

A service celebrating his life will be Dec. 18, at Robbins Brothers Funeral Home, Benton Harbor. The visitation begins at 10 a.m. followed by the service at noon. Those wishing to sign the guest book online may do so at www.robbinsbrothersfh.com.

James was born on Aug. 4, 1965, to James Moore Sr., and Evelyn White.

James married his high school sweetheart, Cynthia (Parker) Moore, on July 9 1990.

He began working at the Cook Nuclear Plant at the young age of 19, before early retirement in 2003.

James was a dedicated, loving husband, father, son, brother and friend, whom all loved to be around because of his contagious smile, laugh and personality. He loved playing dominoes with close family and friends, singing at karaoke with his wife and two daughters, and attending jazz and old skool R&B events, where he and his wife Cynthia were known for bopping the night away.

James' legacy will forever be held near and dear by his wife, Cynthia Moore; son, Marlon Moore Sr., (Gabrielle); daughters: Felicia Moore (Alfonzo Ewing – fiancé) and Victoria Moore; grandchildren: Jaylen Moore, Marlon M. Moore Jr., La'Marcus Bell, Marshawn Moore, Marlon H. Moore Jr., Justice Moore, Da'Zyah Moore, Iyanna Jones, Frederick Monroe Jr.; sister, Sherri Moore Counce; and host of in-laws, cousins, nephews, aunts, uncles, family and friends.

James was preceded in death by his father, James Moore Sr., and his mother, Evelyn White.

Jerry W. Hoffman

Feb. 1, 1980 – Dec. 14, 2020

Jerry W. Hoffman, 40, of Lansing, formerly of St. Joseph passed away on Monday, Dec. 14, 2020.

A celebration of life service will be at 1 p.m. Monday, Dec. 21, at Starks & Menchinger Chapel, 2650 Niles Road, St. Joseph. Burial will follow at Riverview Cemetery. Friends may visit with the family on Monday from 11 a.m. until the time of service at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, 7272 Greenville Ave., Dallas, TX 75231. Those wishing to leave an online condolence may do so at www.starks-menchinger.com.

Jerry was born on Feb. 1, 1980, to Anthony "Tony" and Saundra (Martin) Hoffman in St. Joseph.

He graduated from St. Joseph High School and most recently was working for Capstone LLG., as a delivery driver. Jerry loved singing and playing music. He also enjoyed watching movies. He had a passion for being outdoors, especially hiking in the mountains. Jerry will be remembered for his kind heart and loving spirit.

Jerry is survived by his mother, Saundra Hoffman of St. Joseph; girlfriend, Elisa Pope of Lansing; sister, Heather Escobar of Benton Harbor; nieces and nephews: Gabriella and Abigail Escobar, Antonio and Daniel Texco-Hoffman; grandmothers: Gwendolyn Little of St. Joseph, and Dorothy Hicks of Stevensville; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

Jerry was preceded in death by his father, Tony Hoffman, in January 2020.

Ronald Jerome Vorrath

Nov. 23, 1933 – Dec. 14, 2020

Ronald Jerome Vorrath, 87, of Buchanan passed away peacefully at his home Monday, Dec. 14, 2020. At his bedside were his three children, and three of his grandchildren.

Ron was born Nov. 23, 1933, in Baroda Township to Peter and Christina (Weber) Vorrath.

He graduated from Berrien Springs High School in 1952. He attended Chicago Technical College.

He married widow, Ruth Ann (Rhode) Arend, on Aug. 14, 1961. They raised three children, sons: Ronald and Randy, both of Buchanan; and daughter, Ricki, of Denver, Colo.

Ron was a lifelong custom home builder and owner of Ron Vorrath & Sons Builders, and has left a legacy of beautiful custom homes throughout Berrien County. His beautiful craftsmanship can also be seen throughout Trinity Lutheran Church in Berrien Springs, where he was a lifetime member.

Never one to be idle, Ron would often be found on his riding lawn mower or John Deere tractor, tending to the beautiful landscaping he had created around their home. He would often create projects to expand or beautify the property. He had a green thumb, often buying 50 cent marked down plants that looked dead to the rest of us, but would be brought back to life in his basement greenhouse.

He was a hands-on father, always ready to play softball in the yard or an hour-long water fight in the heat of the summer. He shared his master craftsmanship skills with all of his children, teaching and encouraging them to be hard workers, strong individuals, independent and skilled at their trades. His sons have carried on his custom home building legacy.

He was a doting grandfather in the early stages of his grandchildren's lives. He was always ready to give rides on the Cushman, tractor or loader. Wonderful memories were made fishing with Grandpa in the pond at the bottom of the hill.

Ron was preceded in death by his parents; his wife; two brothers: Wallace and Arthur; two stepsisters: Marian (William) Stark and Margie (Al) Miller.

He is survived by his older sister, Donna (Robert) Lausman; a younger half-sister, Sharon Malone; his three children; eight grandchildren: Dana (Troy) Lane, Hannah (Israel) Moyer-Suarez, Tyler Vorrath, Nathan (Tori) Moyer, Jillian Vorrath, Courtney Vorrath, Madeline Vorrath and Rebecca Moyer; and one great-grandchild, Lily Lane.

A private family ceremony will be Saturday, Dec. 19, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Berrien Springs. Interment and a celebration of his life will be held at a later date. Arrangements have been entrusted to Allred Funeral Home. Visit www.allredfuneralhome.com to send condolences to the family.

Memorial gifts may be made in Ron's name to Trinity Lutheran Church, 9123 George Ave., Berrien Springs, MI 49103.

Farrell Letcher Gilliland Jr.

May 13, 1942 – Dec. 5, 2020

Farrell Letcher Gilliland Jr., 78, of Niles died at home Saturday, Dec. 5, 2020, in the presence of his wife and step-daughter.

A private memorial service celebrating his life was held at 1 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10, at Pioneer Memorial Church on the campus of Andrews University, where Farrell was a member. Pastor Dwight K. Nelson officiated.

Farrell was born on May 13, 1942, in Nevada, Iowa, to Maxine (Bell) and Farrell Gilliland Sr.

He earned a bachelor of arts degree in history from Andrews University in Berrien Springs, in 1965, and a master's degree, also in history, in 1966.

He married Margarete Gruber in 1966, and they were married for 26 years. In 1970, their daughter Katharine Julia was born.

He taught at Eau Claire High School, Andrews Academy, Mount Klabat College in Indonesia, Hinsdale Academy in Illinois, Union Academy in Nebraska, Berrien County's Adult Education program and the GED program at the Berrien County Jail.

He married Delores Foll Perry in 1995, and moved to Kansas. During this time, he taught and served as principal at Three Angels Seventh-day Adventist Junior Academy and Enterprise Academy/ Great Plains Academy. He retired in 2009, and he and Delores moved to Michigan.

Farrell's passion was teaching and seeing his students' eyes light up as he taught each subject. He was an excellent storyteller and a seasoned world traveler. He loved nature, bird watching, the beach, photography, and he was a voracious reader. Above all, Farrell loved God.

He is survived by his wife, Delores; sister, Anne Gilliland Kantor; daughter, Katharine Gilliland (John) Horn; step-children: Jeff Perry and Joelle Perry (Daniel) Ashley; nephew, Jerry (Pam) Kantor Jr.; niece, Julie Kantor (John) Hetherington; one great-niece; one great-nephew; five step-grandchildren; and six step-great grandchildren.

Farrell's parents preceded him in death.

Memorials in his memory may be made to Your Story Hour, P.O. Box 15, Berrien Springs, MI 49103, www.yourstoryhour.org/support-us, where Farrell was a child voice actor for many years.

Snow days, virtual opera: The office holiday party goes on

By KELVIN CHAN and ALEXANDRA OLSON
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK — An online murder mystery. Law-themed opera arias. A snowman-building competition.

With dancing, drinking and fancy dinners a no-go because of virus concerns, companies are getting creative about their holiday office parties this year. The challenge is how to organize a virtual celebration that doesn't feel like yet another Zoom meeting.

Many are forgoing parties altogether and instead giving employees gift baskets, extra time off or donations to charities of their choice. Just 23 percent of companies were planning celebrations, down from 76 percent last year, in a survey of 189 companies by global outplacement firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas. Nearly three-quarters of parties this year will be virtual.

The companies going ahead found their pandemic-weary employees want some kind of bash to break up the anxiety and isolation permeating the holidays.

"People are itching to see each other in person, but I also don't feel totally comfortable holding a typical dinner and open bar," said John Ross, president of Test Prep Insight, a small online education company with 10 employees based in Sacramento, California. "And I know some Zoom-style virtual party just won't cut it."

He landed on the idea of a snow day at a resort near Lake Tahoe, with sledding, snowshoeing and a snowman-building competition. There will be a catered lunch, but no alcohol. Oh, and no plus-ones.

Still, "people are thrilled it's back on," Ross said.

Demand has been high for off-the-wall virtual parties, said Jonathan Como, co-founder of Offsyte, a marketplace for corporate team events, which has organized online holiday events for companies including health insurance giant Blue Shield, the ride-hailing company Lyft, and the dating app Tinder.

Most popular are celebrations that involve sending food and drink to employees for online cocktail or chocolate-making classes, Como said. Also big are virtual escape rooms where employees can play games.

That's the route marketing firm Rank Fuse is taking, bringing its employees together for a virtual murder mystery through Red Herring Games, said Chelsea Roller, culture manager at the Overland Park, Kansas, firm, which normally organizes a holiday dinner or bowling party.

"It will likely be very silly because every employee will be given a character to play," Roller said. "Truthfully, we almost didn't have a company party. However, numerous people started asking about one, so we decided it was the least we could do."

Many companies are using virtual celebrations to offer something people have missed throughout the pandemic: live entertainment.

Hire Space, a U.K event booking site, is organizing 70 virtual office parties in December, according to co-founder Edward Poland. The party "rooms" will include live jazz, cabaret acts, magic shows and stand-up comedy.

On Site Opera, a New York City group that performs at non-traditional venues, got an unusual request to perform arias for a team of lawyers at a California firm. The numbers will include an aria from Carmen in which the title character tries to negotiate herself out of prison – a favorite of the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who famously loved opera, said Artistic Director Eric Einhorn.

"It's just a chance for the attendees to nerd out with us, to have a good time," Einhorn said.

Some larger companies are spreading out events over several weeks and letting employees choose between ugly sweater contests, cooking lessons or pet costume competitions. Others are dividing celebrations up between teams.

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DO YOU REMEMBER?

1995 – 25 years ago

Chuck Castle's story, "The Gold Dust Twins," has been published in a book titled "Final Assault on the Rising Sun" by Chester Marshall. Castle, of Stevensville, was a flight engineer on a B-29 Super-fortress bomber and was stationed in Guam during World War II. The books are stories compiled by Marshall from air crews that participated in WWII.

1985 – 35 years ago

The second Michigan Peach Conference is scheduled in January at the Holiday Inn in Benton Township. Berrien County Agricultural Agent Chris Rajzer said about 150 people attended the first conference last year and it's hoped about 250 will attend this year, including more from out-of-state than a year ago. It hasn't been decided yet if the conference will be an annual event.

1970 – 50 years ago

Grover and David Kugel of Berrien Springs have been named St. Joe River Soil Conversation District's "Conservation Farmers of the Year." The award is presented annually to the farming cooperative or the district who has shown the greatest amount of ingenuity and creativity in soil conservation practices. The district covers the northern 14 townships of Berrien County.

TODAY IN HISTORY

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Friday, Dec. 18, the 353rd day of 2020. There are 13 days left in the year.

Highlight in history:

On Dec. 18, 1865, the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, abolishing slavery, was declared in effect by Secretary of State William H. Seward.

On this date:

In 1915, President Woodrow Wilson, whose first wife, Ellen, had died the year before, married Edith Bolling Galt, a widow, at her Washington home.

In 1917, Congress passed the 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibiting "the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors" and sent it to the states for ratification.

In 1940, Adolf Hitler signed a secret directive ordering preparations for a Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union. (Operation Barbarossa was launched in June 1941.)

In 1944, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the government's wartime evacuation of people of Japanese descent from the West Coast while at the same time ruling that "concededly loyal" Americans of Japanese ancestry could not continue to be detained.

In 1956, Japan was admitted to the United Nations.

In 1957, the Shippingport Atomic Power Station in Pennsylvania, the first nuclear facility to generate electricity in the United States, went on line. (It was taken out of service in 1982.)

In 1987, Ivan F. Boesky was sentenced to three years in prison for his role in a major Wall Street insider-trading scandal. (Boesky served about two years of his sentence).

5-Day Forecast for St. Joseph

Today	Tonight	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Scattered Rain	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
38°	28°	41° / 33°	39° / 34°	44° / 35°	40° / 32°

Local Outlook

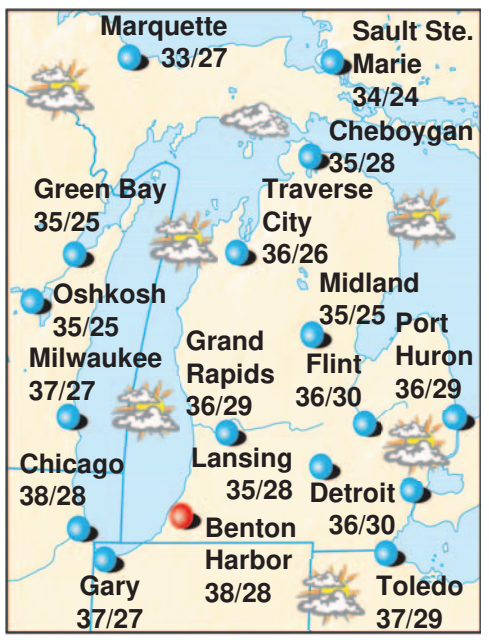
Today we will see mostly cloudy skies, high of 38°, humidity of 62%. South southeast wind 5 to 14 mph. Expect mostly cloudy skies tonight with a slight chance of rain and snow, overnight low of 28°. South wind 11 to 15 mph. The wind chill for tonight could reach 25°.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise ..... 8:09 a.m.
Sunset ..... 5:15 p.m.
Moonrise ..... 11:42 a.m.
Moonset ..... 9:39 p.m.

First	Full	Last	New
12/21	12/29	1/6	1/13

Regional Map



Local Almanac

Benton Harbor Yesterday

Temperature

High	35°
Low	28°
Normal High	34°
Normal Low	21°
Record High	54° in 2006
Record Low	-2° in 2000

Precipitation

Yesterday	0.01"
Month to date	1.19"
Normal for month	1.27"
Year to date	33.22"
Normal Year to date	36.60"

Air Quality

Yesterday 58
Main Offender ..... Particles

The higher the number, the greater the need for people with respiratory problems to reduce outside activity.

0-50 ..... Good
51-100 ..... Moderate
101-150 .... Sensitive
151-200 .. Unhealthy

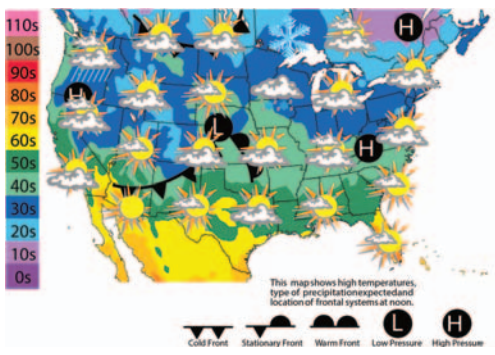
Weather Trivia

Do lightning strike survivors have difficulty with short-term memory? ?

Answer: Yes.

National Weather Map

Forecast map for Dec. 18, 2020



For latest weather updates: **www.UpdatedWx.com/HP**

Lake Michigan

Today, S wind 8 to 14 kt, with gusts as high as 20 kt. Partly sunny. Waves 1 ft or less. Water temperature 36 degrees. Tonight, S wind 15 to 17 kt, with gusts as high as 24 kt.

Michigan Forecast

Upper Peninsula

Today, skies will be mostly cloudy with highs in the 30s. South wind 5 to 11 mph. Expect cloudy skies Saturday with scattered rain and snow, highs in the 30s. South southwest wind 3 to 8 mph.

Lower Peninsula

Today, skies will be mostly cloudy with highs in the 30s. South southeast wind 5 to 14 mph. Expect cloudy skies Saturday with scattered rain and snow, highs in the 30s and 40s. South wind 6 to 11 mph.

Photos provided / Spectrum Health Lakeland

Spectrum Health Lakeland security officer Kenney Booth receives his first dose of COVID-19 vaccine on Wednesday.

VACCINE

From page A1

Berrien County recorded just 37 new COVID-19 cases on Thursday, along with 148 new recoveries and five deaths.

The five deaths were all people over the age of 50. This makes December the deadliest month of the pandemic so far, with 37 deaths recorded so far. The total pandemic death toll for Berrien County stands at 146.

With deaths and recoveries, the county is down to about 3,431 active cases. That's down from 3,911 last Thursday.

Britten said she is still concerned about a decrease in testing, but said the fact that hospitalizations are also stabilizing, and decreasing slightly, is good news.

COVID-19 hospitalizations at Spectrum Health Lakeland dropped to 55 on Thursday morning. That's down from 65 on Wednesday and 64 last Thursday.

Hamel said the next few days will provide some clarity regarding whether that decrease represents a trend.

Contact: anewman@TheHP.com, 932-0357, Twitter: @HPANewman

Spectrum Health Lakeland Pharmacy Director Jason Lovero prepares a COVID-19 vaccine dose for administration on Wednesday.

WORKFORCE

From page A1

4.4 percent. However, it is likely a 6.7 percent jobless rate, as the totals become skewed as unemployed workers exit the labor market.

Pscholka said many people have left because it is either COVID-related, they wish to stay home with their children, or they are not ready to return to work.

Todd Gustafson, Kinexus Group President and CEO, said one demographic has made up the majority of the region's workforce exodus.

"It's primarily women who are dropping out," he said. "Since the majority of which are primary caregivers, who are electing to stay home with the kids. The job sectors of retail, hospitality and leisure, where women are overly represented, are seeing a lot of layoffs."

And yet, there are still 1,250 job postings in the Tri-County area.

As of October, the Tri-County region had 131,260 people in its combined workforce. That number shrunk by 2.3 percent from September.

Job sectors

Pscholka said the one bright spot in the regional economy has been the demand for construction workers.

"That has gone up by 200 jobs in the past month. We've seen a pickup in residential construction, not so much in the commercial side," he said. "The tough part is whether we can find enough employees to fill that need."

Pscholka attributed this to the increase in houses being built in the area.

According to Kinexus data, two out of five people work in a nearby metropolitan area like South Bend, which has allowed the area to "weather the storm a little bit," compared to the rest of the state. This has led to people moving to the area and building new homes.

"We didn't have any movement in this area for so long," Pscholka said, referring to the housing market. "We're in a good position for people moving in. Geographically, we're in a really good spot. We haven't built a lot over the last decade, so now there's this course correction."

Manufacturing has been flat but could see a decline if it doesn't add to its workforce, Gustafson said.

"Some are doing really well and can't find people," he said. "We get to see every side of the spectrum. Manufacturing, health care, agriculture and construction are the four sectors driving this area at the moment."

Contact: twittkowski@TheHP.com, 932-0358, Twitter: @TonyWittkowski

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